

Message Text

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R 300854Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075644

EXDIS - CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING STATE 75644 SENT CANBERRA APR 12 RPT TO YOU QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075644

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OVIP (SCHULTZ, AND WEINBERGER)

SUBJECT:US VISITS TO AUSTRALIA

FOR DCM HARROP

1. DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AT HIGHEST LEVELS HERE THAT IN LIGHT OF PREVAILING GENERAL ELECTIONS VISIT OF SECRETARY SCHULTZ SHOULD BE CANCELLED AND WEINBERGER VISIT POSTPONED BUT NOT TAKE PLACE DURING ELECTION PERIOD. RECOGNIZE THAT CANCELLATION AND POSTPONEMENT OF VISITS AT THIS STAGE WILL CREATE PROBLEMS, BUT WE CONSIDER THAT RISK INVOLVED OUTWEIGHS SUCH DIFFICULTIES, IN PARTICULAR RISK THAT STATEMENTS MADE IN AUSTRALIA COULD BE DISTORTED OR MISUNDERSTOOD AS INTERFERENCE IN AUSTRALIAN ELECTIONS.

2. YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO EXPLAIN TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT
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AND SPONSORS OF CORAL SEA FUNCTIONS THAT BOTH VISITS AS

SCHEDULED HAVE BEEN CANCELLED AND POSTPONED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION OF US INTERFERENCE OR INVOLVEMENT IN AUSTRALIAN ELECTION PROCESS. SINCE BOTH VISITS WERE PLANNED BEFORE DOUBLE DISSOLUTION, TIMING HAD TO BE RECONSIDERED ONCE ELECTIONS WERE SCHEDULED. WE REGRET NOTIFICATION TO AUSTRALIANS HAS COME SO LATE AND GREATLY APPRECIATE ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR BOTH VISITS, BUT WE CONFIDENT AUSTRALIANS WILL UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR OUR ACTIONS.

3. SECRETARY WEINBERGER IS PREPARED TO RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT POSSIBLY IN JUNE IF MUTUALLY CONVENIENT DATES CAN BE WORKED OUT BUT RECOGNIZES THIS WOULD MISS ANNIVERSARY OF CORAL SEA BATTLE.

4. PLEASE COMMUNICATE ABOVE TO AMBASSADOR GREEN. WE ARE INFORMING AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE. KISSINGER GREEN UNQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

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